

Remarks

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the grant of an interview to their representative, John K. Pike, on May 12, 2009. The results of that interview are summarized below.

As suggested by the Examiner during the interview, the claims have been amended to require that at least a portion of the starch and boron-containing compound penetrate the surface of the web. This amendment finds support, for example, at page 2, first full paragraph of the specification. No new matter is believed to be added by the amendment, upon entry of which, claims 1-9, 19-24, and 26-32 will be active.

The Applicants acknowledge the rejection of claims 1, 5, 7-9, 19-24, and 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roberts et al., U.S. Patent 3,112,214. The rejection is traversed.

As discussed during the interview, Roberts et al. does not disclose or suggest a sizing or coating composition wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is equal to or less than about 7% by weight of the starch. In contrast to the claims, Roberts et al. teaches the use of significantly more borax relative to the starch. See, for example, Table I at column 4 of Roberts et al., wherein 5% borax and 4% starch are used.

As discussed during the interview, Roberts et al. teaches surface-sizing a cellulose sheet with a modified starch paste with the goal of preventing the starch from penetrating into the surface of the sheet. Roberts et al. col. 1, lines 67-70. Roberts et al. discloses that pre-treating a cellulose sheet with an aqueous solution of borax, followed by surface-sizing the sheet with a modified starch paste, "results in the retention of the size entirely on the surface of the sheet." Roberts et al. col. 2, lines 10-15. Roberts et al. believes that a cross-linking reaction occurs at the surface of the sheet between the borax and the applied starch. Roberts et al. paragraph bridging cols. 2-3. Neither the cross-linked product that results nor any additional size can penetrate into the sheet. Roberts et al. paragraph bridging cols. 2-3.

As discussed during the interview, the use in Roberts et al. of nearly a 1:1 ratio of borax to starch (5% to 4-6%, respectively) is consistent with his goal of maximizing the crosslinking reaction between the borax and the starch at the surface to prevent any sizing from penetrating the sheet. It is also consistent with his process, in which the borax and the starch are added in separate steps.

Because Roberts et al. does not disclose or suggest a sizing or coating composition wherein the amount of boron-containing compound is equal to or less than about 7% by

weight of the starch, the claims are not obvious over Roberts et al., and the Applicants kindly request that the rejection be withdrawn.

This application is now in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable indication of same is kindly requested.

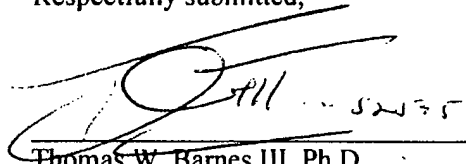
Conclusion

In light of the above, Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance and therefore request favorable consideration.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0525 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Barnes III', is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas W. Barnes III, Ph.D.
Registration No. 52,595
International Paper Company
6285 Tri-Ridge Blvd.
Loveland, Ohio 45140
513-248-6736
513-248-6455 - fax

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